



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1998

No. 79

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OXLEY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 17, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable MICHAEL G. OXLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

With humble hearts, gracious God, we confess our shortcomings, and with grateful hearts we celebrate the wonderful opportunities that our world allows. We realize that we have not cared for the resources of the land as we should, and yet we use our land to feed the hungry and nourish the soul.

In all things, O God, we have occasions to be responsible custodians of the gifts of the Earth, and so we pray this day that we will pledge ourselves to be faithful and good stewards of all Your blessings and use Your gifts to the welfare and prosperity of every person.

This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on

agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHIMKUS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT MUST BE HELD TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of persecuted religious believers in Sudan.

Mr. Faisal Abdallah, a 39-year-old Christian convert from Islam currently

is imprisoned in Khobar Prison in Khartoum. Though accused of evangelism, Mr. Abdallah has not formally been charged with apostasy. Instead he has been charged with criminal violations of, and I quote, "political conspiracy against the Khartoum regime." This charge requires the death penalty upon conviction.

The Sudanese Government is attempting to force extremist Islam on the entire population of Sudan. Reports are that authorities beat, torture, sell into slavery, force to convert to Islam in exchange for food and force to fight against their own people, anyone who disagrees with the Khartoum government. Christians, Animists and moderate Muslims suffer terribly.

Mr. Speaker, these horrifying atrocities must not continue. The Sudanese Government must be held to international human rights standards which protect religious and other fundamental freedoms.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1891

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1891.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

ORANGE COUNTY'S FINEST

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to truly outstanding students from California's 46th Congressional District.

Last year I had the opportunity to nominate young men and women from my district to our finest military academies, and I am pleased that five high

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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